

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 L-03 /042 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1519

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IV
SUBJECT: GSP AND IVORIAN COCOA BUTTER

REF: STATE 000383

1. BEFORE INFORMING IVORIAN OFFICIALS OF LOSS OF GSP BENEFITS FOR COCOA BUTTER RESULTING IN REINSTATEMENT OF THREE PERCENT AD VALOREM DUTY, EMBASSY REQUESTS WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT ON IVORIAN COCOA BUTTER EXPORTS WHICH REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD MARKET TRENDS IN COCOA BUTTER DEMAND AND SUPPLY.
2. WITH REINSTATEMENT OF THREE PERCENT AD VALOREM DUTY, WILL IVORY COAST COCOA BUTTER REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN U.S. MARKET? BY WHAT PERCENTAGE CAN IVORY COAST COCOA BUTTER EXPORTS BE EXPECTED TO FALL WITH LOSS OF GSP (EDUCATED GUESS IS SOLICITED)? IF IVORY COAST LOSES ALL OR PART OF U.S. MARKET, HOW COMPETITIVE IS IT IN OTHER MARKETS? IS THERE SUFFICIENT WORLD DEMAND FOR COCOA BUTTER SO THAT ALTERNATIVE MARKETS WILL BE EASY TO FIND?
3. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES THAT OVER 80 PERCENT

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OF IVORIAN COCOA BUTTER EXPORTS IN FIRST HALF OF 1976 WENT TO U.S., IN COMPARISON TO ABOUT 35 PERCENT IN 1975. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GSP EXCLUSION WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON IVORIAN ECONOMY AT A TIME WHEN EMBASSY FEELS U.S. SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT IVORIAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ALONG WESTERN-ORIENTED LINES. EXCLUSION IS APPARENTLY

RESULT OF RIGID LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS ABOUT WHICH
USG CAN DO LITTLE, BUT EVEN IF EFFECT ON IVORY COAST
SHOULD PROVE MINIMAL, GOIC WILL HARDLY TAKE IT AS A
FRIENDLY MEASURE OR IN KEEPING WITH DEVELOPING NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE. FURTHER, IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN GOIC
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSUMER BOYCOTTS OF COFFEE
IN U.S. ANY MITIGATING TALKING POINTS WHICH DEPARTMENT
CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE USEFUL.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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